Luc. I know, his lordship is but merry with me ; He cannot want fifty-five hundred talents.

SER. But in the mean time he wants less, my lord.
If his occasion were not virtuous[4], I should not urge it half so faithfully[5].

Luc. Dost thou speak seriously, Servilius ?

SER. Upon my soul, 'tis true, sir.

Luc. What a wicked beast was I, to disfurnish myself against such a good time, when I might have shown myself honourable ! how unluckily it happened, that I should purchase the day before for a little part, and undo a great deal of honour[6]!—

Caesar, we have the phrase used here. Lucilius says to his adversary :

" There is *so much,* that thou will kill me straight.'*

MALONE.

4 If his occasion were not VIRTUOUS,] *Virtuous,* for *strong, (forcible, pressing.* WARBURTON.

The meaning may more naturally be—[c] If he did not want it for a good use/ JOHNSON.

Dr. Johnson's explication is certainly right.—We had before: " *Some good necessity* touches his friend." MALONE.

5—half so FAITHFULLY.] *Faithfully, for fervently.* Therefore, without more ado, the Oxford editor alters the text to *fervently.* But he might have seen,, that Shakspeare *used faithfully for fervently,* as in the former part of the sentence he had used *virtuous for forcible.* WARBURTON.

*Zeal *or fervour* usually *attending fidelity.* MALONE.

6 That I should purchase the day before for a little^ PART, and undo a great deal of honour ?] Though there is a seeming plausible antithesis in the terms, I am very well assured they are corrupt at the bottom. Fora little *part* of what? *Honour* is the only substantive that follows in the sentence. How much is the antithesis improved by the sense which my emendation gives? " That I should purchase for a little *dirt,* and undo a great deal of honour!" THEOBALD.

This emendation is received, like all others, by Sir Thomas Hanmer, but neglected by Dr. Warburton. I think Theobald right in suspecting a corruption ; nor is his emendation injudicious, though perhaps we may better read, " purchase the day before for a little *park*" JOHNSON.

I am satisfied with the old reading, which is sufficiently in our